

II. Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16 with the following marked-up paragraph:

Referring now to Figures 1-2 2-3, deformable members 40, 42 secure the position of bearing assemblies 36, 38 once assemblies 36, 38 have attained a predetermined alignment position within differential 10. Although a single deformable member 40 is illustrated in Figures 2-3, it should be understood that members 40, 42 may be identical in construction and that the additional description of member 40 set forth herein may be equally applicable to member 42.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 21 with the following:

Accordingly, the step 106' of rotating assembly may include the substeps 112, 114 of inserting a tool through one or more of apertures 96 in member 40 and moving the tool until bearing assembly 36 reaches a predetermined alignment position. Alternatively, step 106' may include the substeps 116, 118 of grasping a fastener 94 coupling member 40 to cup 76 of bearing assembly 36 with a tool and moving the tool until bearing assembly 36 reaches a predetermined alignment position. Referring again to Figure 6, the method may further include the steps 120, 122 of deforming at least a portion 98 of deformable member 40 after bearing assembly 36 has reached a predetermined alignment position and inserting the portion or portions 98 into a slot or slots 100 in differential carrier 12. Referring to Figure 5, one or more portions 98 of leg

90 of member 40 may be deformed and inserted into slots 100 by exerting a radially outward force on leg 90 (e.g., by using a punching tool).

A differential and method for assembling a differential in accordance with the present invention offer significant advantages. In particular, the bearing assemblies 36, 38 may be securely positioned in infinitely variable angular and axial positions. As a result, the bearing assemblies 36, 38 may be optimally aligned within differential 10. The invention also reduces the cost and weight of differential 10 by eliminating the need for separate bearing adjusters.